



# *Civic Learning Clearinghouse*

## *Programs and Materials*

The Civic Learning Clearinghouse of programs and materials has been generated to assist in the commitment to the civic mission of Idaho schools as required under Thoroughness Standard #8 (**33-1612 Thorough system of public schools.**), “The importance of students acquiring the skills to enable them to be responsible citizens of their homes, schools and communities is emphasized” and the corresponding acknowledgement on the annual accreditation report that “All students are provided with an opportunity to enhance their civic content knowledge and participatory skills through a school-defined commitment to citizenship education.”

In addition to the web links and contact information provided, the programs and/or materials have been correlated to the Idaho Achievement Standards and/or cross-referenced to the six promising approaches to civic education identified in the Carnegie / CIRCLE Report on the Civic Mission of the Schools.

(Report summary available at [www.civicmissionofschools.org/campaign/index.html](http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/campaign/index.html)).

### *Six promising approaches to civic education:*

1. Provide instruction in government, history, law, and democracy.
2. Incorporate discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events into the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives.
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.
4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunity for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.
5. Encourage student participation in school governance.
6. Encourage students’ participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

Center for Civic Education, <http://www.civiced.org/>

We the People:

**The Citizen and the Constitution**

Idaho Department of Education

[dlprinzing@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:dlprinzing@sde.idaho.gov)

The foundation of the **We the People** program is the classroom curriculum. It complements the regular school curriculum by providing upper elementary, middle, and high school students with an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of constitutional democracy in the United States. The **We the People** textbooks are designed for a wide range of student abilities and may be used as a supplemental text or for a full semester of study. (Text approved by the Idaho Curricular Materials Selection Committee appointed by the State Board of Education.)

Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop intellectual and participatory skills while increasing students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. The **We the People** curriculum fosters attitudes that are necessary for students to participate as effective, responsible citizens. After studying the textbook, students take a multiple-choice test and prepare for the simulated congressional hearing.

Grade Level: 5-12....Grades 5 and 12 correlated to the Idaho Achievement Standards....Civic Education #1, 2 and 6

Center for Civic Education, [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

We the People:

**Project Citizen**

Idaho Department of Education

[dlprinzing@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:dlprinzing@sde.idaho.gov)

**Project Citizen** focuses on the role of state and local governments in the U.S. federal system. The curriculum involves an entire class of middle grade students or members of a youth organization, in a series of structured, cooperative learning activities that are guided by teachers, organization leaders, and adult volunteers. Working in four cooperative teams, the students learn to interact with their government through a five-step process that includes

- identifying a problem in their community that requires a public policy solution
- gathering and evaluating information on the problem
- examining and evaluating alternative solutions
- developing a proposed public policy to address the problem
- developing an action plan to get their policy adopted by government

Students' work is displayed in a class portfolio containing a display section and a documentation section.

Grade Level: 5-8....Correlated to the Idaho Achievement Standards....Civic Education #1 ,2, 3 and 6

**Program****Contact**

National Conference of State Legislatures, [www.ncsl.org/public/backsch.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/public/backsch.htm)

**America's Legislators Back-to-School Week**

Lessons available at [www.ncsl.org/public/trust/democracylesson/contents.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/democracylesson/contents.htm)

Idaho Legislature

[pjuker@house.state.id.us](mailto:pjuker@house.state.id.us)

[jwood@senate.state.id.us](mailto:jwood@senate.state.id.us)

America's Legislators Back to School Week, part of NCSL's Trust for Representative Democracy, is the nation's biggest civics lesson and the largest national event in which state legislators participate. It encourages elected officials in all 50 states to meet personally with young constituents and to answer questions, share ideas, listen to concerns and impart a greater understanding of the legislative process. The event is designed to teach young people--the nation's future voters and leaders--what it's like to serve as an elected official: the processes, the pressures, and the debate, negotiation and compromise that are the very fabric of representative democracy. It will also result in focusing state legislators on civic education during the same week all across the country, building personal links between schools and legislators and providing legislators an opportunity to observe what is going on in schools. Back to School Week is scheduled annually during the third week of September and legislative coordinators organize the event in each state.

Grade Level: K-12....Correlation – Not Applicable....Civic Education #1

Law-Related Education, [www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm](http://www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm)

**Mock Trial**

Library of cases available at [www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm#MT](http://www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm#MT)

Idaho Law Foundation

[bjensen@isp.state.id.us](mailto:bjensen@isp.state.id.us)

The Idaho Law Foundation's Mock Trial Program is recognized as one of the most exciting educational opportunities available to Idaho students. Mock Trial offers students an opportunity to experience first-hand the drama and excitement of a courtroom proceeding. It also gives them a chance to sharpen their analytical and communication skills while learning about the law and the legal system. The objectives of Mock Trial are:

- to better understand the law, court procedures and our legal system
- to increase proficiency in life skills such as critical thinking, listening and speaking
- to practice team work and cooperative learning
- to promote communication and cooperation among the legal community, educators and students.

Grade Level: 9-12....Correlation – Not Applicable....Civic Education #1, 2 and 6

**Program****Contact**

Law-Related Education, [www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm](http://www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre.htm)

**Law-Related Lesson Plans**

Lessons available at [www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre\\_lesson\\_plans.asp](http://www2.state.id.us/isp/gen/lre_lesson_plans.asp)

Idaho Law Foundation

[bjensen@isp.state.id.us](mailto:bjensen@isp.state.id.us)

The lesson plans are listed in a database and are available in hard copy by email or phone request. The lessons have been compiled from a number of state and national civic education organizations. To obtain a copy of a lesson plan contact, [Kendra Hooper](#) or [Becky Jensen](#) at (208) 334-4500. Please include your snail mail address along with the name and number of the lesson plan. Lessons are available free of charge, however, the LRE Program reserves the right to limit quantities when more than a few lessons are requested.

Grade Level: K-12....Correlation – Not Available....Civic Education #1 and 2

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, [www.youthcourt.net/](http://www.youthcourt.net/)

**Youth Court**

Resources: [www.youthcourt.net/Resources/overview.htm](http://www.youthcourt.net/Resources/overview.htm)

Idaho Youth Court Programs

Idaho Contact List: [www.isc.idaho.gov/youthcrt.htm](http://www.isc.idaho.gov/youthcrt.htm)

or [sburke@idcourts.net](mailto:sburke@idcourts.net)

Youth Court is a program in which juvenile offenders are questioned, defended and sentenced by their peers. Currently, there are 852 youth courts in place across the United States with 200 courts in development. Youth Courts are the fastest growing crime intervention programs in the nation. They offer ways to engage the community in a partnership with the juvenile justice system to respond to juvenile crimes by increasing the awareness of delinquency issues on a local level and by mobilizing community members and youth to take an active role in addressing the problem.

In most youth courts, young offenders are referred for sentencing, rather than for a decision of guilt or innocence. Sentences commonly include community service (1-200 hours), jury duty (up to 12 times), restitution, and apologies. Additional sentencing options include counseling, educational workshops on substance abuse or safe driving, essay writing, victim-awareness classes, curfew, drug testing, school attendance, and peer discussion groups. For the most part, Youth Courts only accept first-time offenders who have committed relatively minor offenses. Rather than handing down harsh juvenile punishment, Youth Courts offer an appropriate level of guidance and correction. Youth Courts share an important goal with law-related education, including a strong potential to improve the citizenship skills of young people.

Grade Level: 7-12....Correlation – Not Applicable....Civic Education #1, 2, 4 and 6

Bill of Rights Institute, [www.billofrightsinstitute.org/index.php](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/index.php)

**Bill of Rights Institute**

Education Resources: [www.billofrightsinstitute.org/links.php](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/links.php)

The Bill of Rights Institute's mission is to educate high school students and teachers about America's Founding principles through programs that teach the words and ideas of the Founders; the liberties and freedoms guaranteed in our Founding documents; and how America's Founding principles affect and shape a free society. Lesson plans, founding documents, and education resources are available through the website.

Grade Level: K-12....Correlation – Not Available....Civic Education #1

National Student / Parent Mock Election, [www.nationalmockelection.com/](http://www.nationalmockelection.com/)

**National Student / Parent Mock Election**

Curriculum Materials: [www.nationalmockelection.com/curriculum.html](http://www.nationalmockelection.com/curriculum.html)

Idaho Department of Education  
[pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov)

The National Student / Parent Mock Election seeks to turn the sense of powerlessness that keeps young Americans and parents, too, from going to the polls into a sense of the power of participation in our democracy. Note that it is this powerlessness, psychologists tell us that, is the root cause of violence. One of the most important ways to increase students' sense of significance – and power – is to use the Mock Election to take them out of the classroom and into the real world.

For more information on the annual Idaho Mock Election, contact the Idaho Department of Education's Social Studies Coordinator, Peter Kavouras at [pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov)

Grade Level: 5-12....Correlation – Not Applicable....Civic Education #1, 2 and 6

Office of Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, [gov.idaho.gov/](http://gov.idaho.gov/)

**Kid Book**

Website: [gov.idaho.gov/fyi/kidbook/index.htm](http://gov.idaho.gov/fyi/kidbook/index.htm)

Office of the Governor

Parra Byron, Education Advisor, [pbyron@gov.idaho.gov](mailto:pbyron@gov.idaho.gov)

Available as an online document, **Kid Book** is a discovery tour of the State of Idaho through the state's politics, government, symbols, geography and history.

Grade Level: 4....Correlation – Not Available...Civic Education #1

**Program****Contact**

The Congressional Award, [www.congressionalaward.org/congress/about/about\\_who.htm](http://www.congressionalaward.org/congress/about/about_who.htm)

**Congressional Award**

Idaho Contact: [idahocongressionalaward@hotmail.com](mailto:idahocongressionalaward@hotmail.com)

Program Areas: [www.congressionalaward.org/congress/about/about\\_program.htm](http://www.congressionalaward.org/congress/about/about_program.htm)

The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress' award for young Americans. It is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. The program is open to all 14- to 23-year olds. Participants earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Earning the Award is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you'd like to try for the first time. You move at your own pace – on your own or with your friends. This is not an award for past accomplishments. Instead, you are honored for achieving your own challenging goals.

Regardless of your situation, you can earn The Congressional Award. The Congressional Award has no minimum grade point average requirements. It accommodates young people with special needs or disabilities who are willing to take the challenge.

Grade Level: 9-12....Correlation – Not Applicable....Civic Education #4

The Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/)

**The Learning Page – Especially for Teachers**

Lessons and Activities available: [memory.loc.gov/learn/](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/)

Ask a Librarian

[www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/)

The website is a “front door” into the Library of Congress’ American Memory collections. Designed as a “teacher’s eye view” of over seven million historical documents, photographs, maps, films, and audio recordings, the site provides lessons, features, activities, and tips and tricks for using the collections in the classroom.

Grade Level: K-12....Correlation – Not Available....Civic Education #1